



Nancy Gardner

Council Member
Final Newsletter

December 2014

Newport Beach, California

City Contacts

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General Information

Departments	644-
Administrative	3127
Building Dept	3275
City Clerk	3005
City Council	3004
City Manager	3001
Economic Dev	3225
Graffiti Hotline	3333
Harbor Resources	3034
Licenses	3141
Mayor	3004
Municipal Ops	3055
Public Info Office	3031
Planning Dept	3200
Public Works	3311
Recreation	3151
Refuse Collection	3066
Senior Services	3151
Streets/Sidewalks	3060
Utilities	3011
Water/Sewer	3050

Emergency Services
 Emergency 9-1-1
 Fire Dept 633-3104
 Police Dept 644-3717

Libraries
 CdM 644-3075
 Main 717-3800
 Mariners 717-3838
 Balboa 644-3076

Oasis Senior Center
644-3244

Post Office
 CdM 673-2989
 Main 640-4663

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THE CONCLUSION

So--the end of a particular journey. I thought it would be a rather nice touch if city employees threw themselves on a funeral pyre in grief at my departure from city government, but they have been satisfied with shaking my hand and waving goodbye. I should probably be happy with that. Two more weeks and they'll have trouble remembering my name. Since this is my last newsletter, I want to thank all of you who have read it and communicated about various and sundry issues. I could have done without some of the communications ("Thanks for nothing . . . you personally disgust me. ps: your departure can't, and didn't come soon enough."), but those are rare. For the most part it has been a dialogue marked by good nature, thoughtfulness and a shared love of the city.

THE BEGINNING

When Debra Allen and Jan DeBay asked me for coffee eight years ago, I figured they wanted me to do something, but I wasn't prepared for what that was--running for council. I can't say it was an idea that was instantly appealing. Council meetings? Yes. Committees? Sure. Interaction with residents? Of course. Social events? You mean, not sit home with my book? Go out to some affair to which I would not be invited except for my title? Uhhhhh. My husband convinced me it would be fine (meanwhile arranging his own schedule so as to be unavailable 90% of the time), so I agreed, and off we went, running a campaign that blatantly played on my most notable asset--being Judge Gardner's daughter. Every other line I uttered began with some version of, "Judge Gardner, my father . . ." which proved to be a winning formula.

TWO TERMS

I was right. The Council meetings were interesting. The committees involving. The interaction with residents mostly rewarding (see "you personally disgust me" above, for the exceptions), but that other stuff . . . well, it wasn't as difficult as I thought because the majority of the time, the rest of the people at the event were just as invested in the city as I and so we had lots to talk about. And then there were my fellow council members. When you think of seven disparate personalities who probably wouldn't be associating if they weren't on the council, it's amazing how well we worked together. There wasn't a lot of ego. If someone disagreed with me, I knew they were wrong, of course, but I also knew it was about seeing an issue differently, nothing else. Even after some pretty sharp arguments, after the vote we put it behind us. I'm really grateful for that. I look at other cities and the acrimony they experience, and I don't know if I could have handled two terms under those circumstances.

THE FUTURE

We have four new council members coming on. I wish a few of them had longer histories with the city and/or their district, but I'm sure they'll be quick learners who will serve the city well. Certainly I feel good about the state of the city that they will soon be directing.

AND SO . . .

I feel like there should be some socko finish, some memorable closing words, but I am not Shakespeare or Auden or even W. C. Fields, so let me just say to those of you for whom I didn't leave soon enough (see "you personally etc." above), all right, already. I'm leaving. And for the rest of you, thank you for all of your support these eight years. We have disagreed at times but often found common ground, and together we have accomplished quite a lot.

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